

HONORING COUNTESS BALOGUN

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a descendant of Bahamians, to recognize Countess Balogun for her contribution to the City of Miami's designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove on July 19, 2022.

Since the 19th century, Bahamians played an integral role in the founding of the City of Miami, representing one-third of the registered signatories on July 28, 1896, date of the city's incorporation. Much like Miami's original Bahamian signatories, Countess Balogun's commitment to preserving the rich Bahamian culture and history of Miami has helped to ensure the designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Countess Balogun for her contributions to the community and her role in the historic designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

INTRODUCING HOUSE RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF NATIONAL POPPY
DAY

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to re-introduce a bipartisan resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Poppy Day on the Friday before Memorial Day, with Congresswoman SPARTZ.

The importance of this day cannot be overstated. This bipartisan National Poppy Day Resolution recognizes the sacrifices of America's veterans and fallen service members.

In the last several decades, Memorial Day has become synonymous with the start of summer, and not as it was intended as a time to mourn and remember the U.S. military personnel who have fought and died while serving in the United States armed forces. While the United States has great respect for those who serve in the Armed Forces, we often focus on the living veterans. There are many parents, spouses, siblings, and children who still mourn their fallen service member.

Yes, there are ceremonies to remember those we have lost, such as the ones at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, at the Pentagon, and small ones at National Cemeteries. However, as a Nation we no longer take the time to remember those who have shed blood in the name of freedom.

The red-flowered corn poppy has long been a marker of respect and a way to raise awareness and support for members of our nation's veteran communities, servicemembers and their families, and the families of those who died in service to their country. Poppy Day is widely recognized by America's allies, especially in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Great Britain, and Ukraine, but is less recognized here at home.

The red-flowered corn poppy became forever linked to soldiers who paid the ultimate

sacrifice on the battlefields of World War I, as result of the poem "In Flanders Fields." The poem, written by a Canadian soldier actively serving on the front-lines of WWI to honor his fellow soldiers killed in battle, reads:

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow,
between the crosses, row on row

Around the world, the red-flowered corn poppy continues to serve as the living symbol of the blood shed by those who served and is worn as a gesture of gratitude and recognition of the sacrifices people have made in service to their country. Many nations incorporate the poppy into their Veterans or Remembrance Day ceremonies.

In the United States, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars first called attention in the 1920s to the importance of the poppy flower in honoring the fallen. They continue to distribute poppies and promote the importance of a National Poppy Day on the Friday before Memorial Day and Veterans Day, raising money for disabled veterans.

With wider recognition of National Poppy Day and wearing a red poppy, we honor every servicemember who has died in the name of liberty, freedom, and democracy. Additionally this provides us the opportunity to thank their families, veterans, and current service members for our freedom now and for generations to come. In the words of American Moina Michael:

And now the Torch and Poppy Red,
We wear in honor of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought

Our Resolution would begin on May 26, 2023. We should honor past and current members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their families. We should encourage all citizens, residents, and visitors of the United States to join in observing "National Poppy Day." Wearing a red poppy the Friday before Memorial day—and through the weekend—is a simple declaration of our admiration for and thanks to those individuals who shed blood to preserve freedom.

In this body we have people who have served and those who have lost. At the very least we should honor them.

We invite all Members of Congress to wear their poppy red, support the goals and ideals of National Poppy Day on May 26, 2023 and every year after, to pay tribute to those who have sacrificed for our country—both living and dead. I also invite all of my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this resolution.

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT
VIRGIL POE, ONE OF THE
GREATEST GENERATION

HON. DAN CRENSHAW

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, on Friday, July 1st this year, Sergeant Virgil Poe, age 96, passed away surrounded by family in Houston, Texas.

Virgil was born on June 28, 1926, near Mansfield, Arkansas. He lived the first ten years of his life in Hoberg, Missouri. At ten years old, Virgil's parents, Loyd and Elsie Poe, moved to Portsmouth, Iowa where his father worked as a banker. He graduated from high school in Harlan, Iowa in 1944.

Virgil was drafted in June 1944 and reported to the famed Fort Leavenworth in Kansas to serve his country in the United States Army. He would go on to take basic Infantry Training at Camp Wolters, Texas.

Virgil fought for the Allies with selflessness and nobility. He served in the 7th U.S. Army in France, Belgium, and Germany as a rifleman, truck driver and heavy artilleryman until Germany's surrender in 1945.

Following Germany's surrender, Virgil did not rest. Upon his return to America, he boarded a troop train to Seattle with other soldiers shipping to fight the Japanese in the Pacific Theater. While en route to the Pacific, Virgil and the other servicemen learned Japan had surrendered.

After the war, Virgil was sent back to Ft. Hood, where he would meet his wife, Dorrace, at an evening service at the Church of Christ in her nearby hometown of Temple, Texas. His battalion eventually moved to Camp Polk in Louisiana, where Virgil served as the Administrative NCO in the newly organized Rocket FA Battalion Headquarters. He also served as Supply Sergeant in the same battalion.

Virgil was honorably discharged from the service in August 1946. He and Dorrace married shortly thereafter in October of 1946.

Virgil went on to Abilene Christian College, where he graduated in 1952. Upon graduation, he worked faithfully for 42 years at Southwestern Bell Telephone Co./AT&T as an engineer across the Midwest, including in Dallas, Houston, and St. Louis.

In 2020, the President of the Republic of France authorized the National French Legion of Honour Medal, the highest military medal in France, to Virgil Poe. 75 years after the landing at Normandy the French consulate in Houston awarded the medal to Mr. Poe to honor him for his service in France during World War II. Indeed, Mr. Poe was an exemplary member of the Greatest Generation.

Virgil and Dorrace remained happily married for 72 years before her passing in April 2019. He is survived by his daughter, Jayne Poe Massey, of Jersey Village, Texas; son, former Congressman Ted Poe and wife, Carol; eight grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren. Please join us in honoring a true American hero and patriot.

HONORING U.S. NAVY COMMANDER
SHERRI R. ZIMMERMAN

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in honor of retired Navy Commander Sherri R. Zimmerman, a distinguished military leader who graciously served on my 2018 Military Service Academy Nominations Board.

Commander Zimmerman enlisted in the Navy in 1993 and quickly distinguished herself as a talented leader. In 1994, she enrolled in the U.S. Naval Academy, and graduated four years later with a Bachelor of Science degree in English and a commission as a Cryptologic Officer.

Commander Zimmerman attended the Navy Cryptologic Division Officer training in Pensacola, Florida. Subsequently, she reported to